

Utah Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC) on Chemical Weapons Demilitarization Meeting
Tooele City Hall (City Council Room)
November 30, 2006
6:30 p.m.

Members Present	Members Absent
Deborah Kim, Chair	Dan Bauer
Jane Bowman	John Bennett
Dennis Downs	Rosemary Holt
Greg Jones	Sidney Hullinger
David Ostler	Dennis Rockwell
	Beverly White

I. Welcome/Minutes – Deborah Kim, Chair

Ms. Kim called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and welcomed all present.

Kari Sagers, Director of Tooele County Emergency Management, presented a video entitled “The CSEPP 500.” The CSEPP 500 video documents the history of CSEPP utilizing a racing theme. Ms. Sagers contacted all the chemical weapons facilities and asked for pictures, news clips, etc. and combined them all to create the video. The video also included some historical film footage. The video was presented at the CSEPP National Conference and was very well received.

A motion for accepting two separate meeting minutes was put forward by David Ostler and seconded by Jane Bowman and was unanimously carried that the July 20, 2006 and September 21, 2006, CAC meeting minutes be accepted.

II. Follow up Items: None to report.

III. Deseret Chemical Depot Update – Colonel Frederick Pellissier

Colonel Pellissier provided the following update: (A copy of the presentation is available with the meeting minutes.)

The Army has determined that the accelerated closure of CAMDS will be done utilizing one contractor instead of multiple contractors. The metal parts furnace will still be utilized in some capacity during the accelerated closure process. A reduction-in-force has been scheduled for the CAMDS employees, which could begin as early as October 2007. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will be assisting with the CAMDS accelerated closure. TVA is onsite and is currently in the process of reviewing procedures, etc. to ensure everything is place, to achieve a safe and environmentally compliant closure. Full closure operations will not begin until March 2007.

A Chemical Surety Inspection is a watershed event that occurs every few years at the Depot. The Depot recently passed the Chemical Surety Inspection. This inspection is a comprehensive evaluation of all areas at the Depot, including TOCDF and Area 10 operations. Passing the inspection indicates that the Army is continuing to destroy chemical agents in an environmentally sound and safe manner.

TOCDF (Area 10) is currently moving ton containers. The igloos are being heated to ensure that the mustard agent within the ton containers is liquid before it is sampled. Also, a very successful sampling operation is occurring in Area 10. Fifteen ton containers are being sampled per day, five days a week. The sampling results indicate that 20% of the ton containers have high mercury levels and will be processed after the initial processing is done. To date, 1,067 ton containers have been sampled. TOCDF has had to deal with many challenges including a large amount of residue (heel) left in the ton containers after they have been drained. Some ton containers have boiled over in the furnace so TOCDF has had to adjust temperature in the zones in the metal parts furnace to address the problem.

Deborah Kim requested clarification on the boiling over of some ton containers. Colonel Pellissier stated that when the ton containers are in the metal parts furnace for approximately one hour, the mustard begins to bubble up and boil out over the top. The agent is totally consumed in the metal parts furnace so no risk of agent release

exists. When a ton container boils over, the furnace must be cleaned out before additional processing occurs, causing delays in the process. Ms. Kim asked if boiling containers had been observed at any other facility. Colonel Pellissier stated that this issue has not been observed at other facilities, and the only other experience with ton containers was the incineration that occurred on Johnston Island. There, the mustard was drained and transferred into new ton containers. Colonel Pellissier stated that the heels in the ton containers may be due to the extensive amount of time the ton containers have been in storage.

David Ostler asked questions regarding the treaty milestones and if any other countries besides the United States and the former Soviet Union were significant signatories to the treaty. Colonel Pellissier stated that there are a number of countries that are signatories to the treaty but the United States is not holding any other countries to the same standards we have. The United States is making better progress than any other country. Meeting the treaty is a priority; but it has to be done safely and environmentally compliant.

Jane Bowman asked for additional clarification regarding the ton containers that were drained from Okinawa and sent to Johnston Island. Colonel Pellissier stated that the ton containers were drained before they got shipped to Johnston Island from Okinawa. The mustard in the ton containers at Johnston Island had not been in there more than fifteen years before they were incinerated, unlike the ton containers at the Depot, where the mustard has been in the ton containers since 1943. It was unclear why the ton containers that were shipped to Johnston Island were drained first; however, it is believed that it was not due to them leaking. Previously, the ton containers had been stored in Okinawa for about 30 years. Once the ton containers were drained in Okinawa they were decontaminated.

Colonel Pellissier announced that Mr. Harold Oliver will be retiring in January 2007. Mr. Oliver has 37 years of service to the Army. Colonel Pellissier thanked Mr. Oliver for all his efforts and his dedicated years of service. The process to replace Mr. Oliver is currently underway.

The History Channel will be airing the TOCDF and Deseret Depot Modern Marvels in either January or February 2007. Jane Bowman requested that the CAC members be notified prior to the airing of Modern Marvels.

IV. Program Status – Trace Salmon

Mr. Trace Salmon, Deputy TOCDF Site Project Manager, provided an update on the Chemical Disposal Program. (A copy of the presentation is available with the meeting minutes.)

Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility – (ABCDF) – Maryland

Closure operations continue with all mustard bulk containers (1,817) drained and neutralized. Final demolition of the Process Neutralization Building (PNB) began on October 30, 2006. Removal of the PNB is 98.2% complete with final removal of the metal building, filter housings and stacks. Only the slab remains for final demolition. The Army expects to complete all closure field work at ABCDF by summer 2007.

Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) – Alabama

After a maintenance outage, the deactivation furnace system (DFS) was brought online to resume VX M55 rocket operations. Trial burns for VX secondary waste have been completed. As of November 26, 2006, 522 tons of agent have been destroyed, approximately 23% of the original stockpile.

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) – Kentucky

Employees celebrated the project's official groundbreaking on October 2, 2006 at the Blue Grass Army Depot. An open house held on October 28, 2006 at Eastern Kentucky University brought the community together with military, national and local officials to commemorate the start of construction. In 2007, plant design will be finalized and construction will continue for the main destruction facility. The plant will destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons containing approximately 520 tons of mustard and nerve agents.

Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility – (NECDF) - Indiana

The Centers for Disease Control has issued its report about safe transportation of VX hydrolysate to the DuPont facility in New Jersey. A decision whether to ship the hydrolysate is still pending. Processing operations continue with 62 batches neutralized for the month of October 2006. As of November 26, 2006, 561 bulk VX containers have been neutralized, approximately 33% of the entire stockpile.

Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility – (PBCDF) - Arkansas

The PBCDF Site Project Manager, Randy Long, died unexpectedly on November 25, 2006. The Metal Parts Furnace trial burns were completed on November 4, 2006. M55 GB rockets continue to be processed. As of November 26, 2006, 379 tons of GB agent have been destroyed from over 70,000 M55 rockets, totaling approximately 9% of the original stockpile.

Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) – Colorado

Stage one construction continues with perimeter fencing and the Defense Access Road completed. Construction of the Access Control Point continues, with scheduled completion in spring 2007. Stage two construction of ancillary buildings is expected to begin in FY07. No determination has been made on whether to treat hydrolysate from the neutralization process on or off-site. A decision is expected by early 2007. A decision is still pending in Congress for long term project funding. The plant will destroy a stockpile of mustard chemical weapons containing approximately 2,600 tons of agent.

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility – (UMCDF) – Oregon

Workers are now processing 8-inch GB projectiles and are expected to finish in December 2006. Following 8-inch completion, “changeover” will commence in preparation for the 155mm GB projectiles. The secondary waste trial burn is scheduled to occur during this changeover. As of November 26, 2006, 819 tons of GB agent have been destroyed, totaling approximately 23% of the original stockpile.

The Chemical Disposal Program Update included a graph dated November 26, 2006, entitled “Percentage of CMA Total Agent Stockpile Destroyed.” Total stockpile 31,498 tons; Total destroyed almost 13,000 tons (41%); Total remaining more than 18,500 tons (59%).

V. Plant Status – Mr. Tim Olinger, Deputy General Manager, Plant Operations

Mr. Olinger presented the TOCDF Update including Safety Performance and Environmental Performance. (A copy of the presentation is available with the meeting minutes.)

A graph entitled “Recordable Injury Rate (12-Month Rolling Average) provided the following information: The safety goal is <1.0 Recordable Injury Rate (RIR), the 12-month RIR is at 1.4. As of November 19, 2006, TOCDF has worked 2,000,943 consecutive hours or 379 days without a lost work day injury. As of November 2006, one recordable injury occurred coming on the back of a 116 days stretch without a recordable injury. (An individual received a cut on the top of their head that had to be recorded.)

A graph entitled “RCRA Title V Human Error Non-Compliances (24 month rolling average) provided the following information: The RCRA Human Error Non-Compliance 12-month rolling average is 1.17 for the month of October. As of November 26, 2006, there have been no Title V deviations and no RCRA human error non-compliance. The work of the safety committees has ensured that the reportable injuries stay minimal (the goal is one or less each month).

Area 10 HD sampling information included a graph entitled “Re-measured Heels and New Heel Measurement Totals for Low Mercury Tons”. Area 10 sampling information included: Agent samples have been removed from 1067 ton containers at the sampling igloos in Area 10 (400 since last CAC meeting). Hg contamination has been found in approximately 20% of the sampled ton containers. Currently, the Army is utilizing available data to select lot numbers to sample to ensure low Hg/low heel ton containers are available. The graph entitled “Re-measured Heels and New Heel Measurement Totals for Low Mercury Tons” depicted the number of heels that are being found in the ton containers. Mr. Olinger stated that the heel amounts are larger than originally anticipated and/or that was indicated by the characterization paperwork. The mercury has been associated with eleven lots and data is being gathered with the heel size and total volume that is within the ton containers. To date, approximately 90,000 lbs. of agent have been safely destroyed.

TOCDF Ton Container Processing Status and graph entitled “Mustard Ton Container Processing” provided the following information: As of November 26, 2006, 256 ton containers have been processed through the metal parts furnace. Fifty ton containers have been processed the week ending November 26, 2006. TOCDF is ahead of the Life Cycle Cost baseline schedule, as the campaign is to start December 2, 2006. The Life Cycle Cost baseline schedule and the actual HD ton containers processed to meet the 45% Treaty were briefly discussed.

HD Baseline TC Shakedown (LIC Shakedown):

The LIC Shakedown period is underway. The purpose of the shakedown period is to prepare furnaces for the trial burn. As part of the planning for the trial burn, a LIC mini-burn testing was completed on October 31, 2006. Test results met all test objectives. Agent Destruction Removal Efficiency (DRE) exceeded 99.99999% . Chlorobenzene (spiked to the LIC secondary chamber) DRE exceeded 99.999%, and metal emissions during metals spiking were in compliance with air quality requirements.

HD Baseline TC Shakedown (Metal Parts Furnace (MPF)): The MPF shakedown process includes a Mini-Burn (High Agent/Metals and High Heel). The final test is scheduled for December 5, 2007. Final furnace performance optimization/Relative Accuracy Test Audit (RATA) on Mercury Process Monitoring Performance capability run (Agent Trial Burn/Comprehensive Performance Test) scheduled for January 2007. (This test is to validate the mercury monitoring system that has been supporting the processing of the ton containers to date.) The test is required by both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Division of Air Quality. Agent Trial Burn/Comprehensive Performance Test is scheduled for January 2007. Complete burnout is not feasible; product incomplete combustions (PICs) found in “clinkers”/ash – prompted early dioxin test. SO₂ is evaluated during ton container /ash cooling and during ton container cleanout. MPF operational parameter adjustment, DAL Sparge added to assist in cooling. A blanket is added to cover ton container to remove available O₂. Metal parts furnace adjustments slow down the boiling rate. Contractors will be utilized to get rid of the PICs, ash, etc.

Deborah Kim asked if disposal of the PICS and ash that can not be put back in the furnace will require additional permitting modifications. Marty Gray stated that the product is treated as a hazardous waste, but additional treatment may be needed, such as stabilization at an off-site facility.

The primary focus of the remainder of shakedown is validation of the Area 10 heel depth determination method and development of the necessary level of confidence in heel prediction capability. The process has been modified various times and multi-point sampling is occurring. Currently, two different sets, totaling thirty different points, are being sampled within each ton container. Final furnace optimizations (Time and temperature combinations) are being addressed. The metal parts furnace mini-burn second phase has been completed. A Relative Accuracy Test Audit (RATA) to demonstrate performance of Hg compliance monitor (December) and the trial burns are scheduled for January 2007.

Deborah Kim asked what will be done if the heel is greater than 632 lbs. Mr. Olinger stated that loosening or removing some of the heel may be an option. Other options include additional punching of holes to find the liquid pocket, tilting, and heating blankets.

Mr. Olinger stated the 632 lb. amount is stated in the permit and is based on a number the Army felt it could safely achieve. CAC members questioned if the 632 lb. amount should be less as the Army is having to deal with additional issues to achieve the 632 lb. limit. Mr. Olinger stated that the PICs are associated with the high heels because they can not stay in the furnace for a longer amount of time and so other alternatives are being considered. Ms. Kim asked for Mr. Olinger to elaborate on the issue of boiling interference. Mr. Olinger responded that when a container boils, the temperature changes within the furnace and causes the water sprays to come on at an increased rate, which interferes with the process. No increased risk for the environment has occurred with this issue. (It is a sulfur compound issue.)

Mustard Post-Baseline Processing EA:

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment. The CMA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with post-baseline mustard ton container processing. The EA evaluates options for addressing items containing elevated mercury and/or excessive heels, and potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed actions. The EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are anticipated to be released for a 30-day public comment in January 2007

VI. DSHW Update - Martin Gray

Mr. Gray provided information on the CAMDS facility. The Division is currently working through a number of closure plans at CAMDS. CAMDS is submitting closure plans to partially close different units at the facility and the Division is currently working through four of the closure plans. It is anticipated that more than 20 closure plans will be received before closure is complete. Once the four closure plans are complete, which deal with the removal of equipment, CAMDS will provide additional closure plans addressing the demolition of buildings. The

Division is unclear what complete closure will entail at this point. Current proposals indicate that all the building will be gone, but the concrete pads will remain. Also, a Waste Analysis Plan that is in the permit will provide the roadmap to determine how they will manage everything in the plant. A public comment period for the Waste Analysis Plan will be conducted at a later date, as it currently is still in draft form. CAMDS has one permit out for public comment that deals with the heating and ventilation system stack. Currently, when agent is detected, CAMDS is required to report to the Division and shut down and wait to receive approval from the Division before startup resumes. CAMDS is requesting to modify the permit so they do not have to shut down.

The Division is currently reviewing two temporary authorization requests from TOCDF. The first temporary authorization request deals with changing the monitoring terminology from a time-weighted average (TWA) to a short term exposure limit (STEL). A temporary authorization on this request has been granted. The second temporary authorization request deals with processing heels greater than 632 lbs. The temporary authorization request was received in late September 2006. The Division has not acted on this request and has requested additional data to verify that they could process heels greater than 632 lbs. The Division has also encouraged TOCDF to find ways to get the heels lower than 632 lbs. TOCDF has had some success in getting the heels lowered, but has not been entirely successful.

The Executive Secretary has granted an additional 720 hours for shakedown at TOCDF. If a facility has concluded a shakedown period and is not ready to perform a trial burn, it can request an additional 720 hours of shakedown.

Mr. Gray stated that during the last CAC meeting, the Division was in the process of conducting its annual comprehensive inspection. This inspection entails reviewing all the permits conditions and applicable regulations to verify the facility is in compliance. The inspection has been completed.

VII. New Business

a. U.S. Army Environmental Forum XIV, Dallas, Texas

Mr. Downs recently attended the U.S. Army Environmental Forum XIV, held in Dallas, Texas. Three separate meetings were associated with the Forum, including the Citizens' Advisory Commission Caucus and the Environmental Regulators Working Group. Mr. Downs stated that he attended the Citizens' Advisory Commission Caucus as did individuals representing all the other chemical demilitarization facilities. Discussions during the meeting indicated that a much lower level of controversy and concern exist now that most of the facilities are operational. The Bluegrass and Pueblo facilities are still in the planning/development stages and their CAC members expressed frustration at having to deal with the appeals and lawsuits associated with getting operational. Closure issues and concerns were also discussed, including land usage after closure of the facilities. Community involvement was also briefly discussed. Mr. Downs stated that most CAC representatives indicated that fewer and fewer members of the public are attending their meetings. Also, retention of employees during closure was discussed, as experienced employees that are running the facilities will likely leave prior to final closure. The Army and its contractors are working on retention plans and/or incentives to ensure that their experienced workforce remains until final closure.

Mr. Downs stated that during the discussions, most CAC representatives indicated that they are only meeting quarterly and questioned if the Utah CAC had a preference. Jane Bowman stated that less meetings and less public attendance does not necessarily mean there is a higher comfort level. Greg Jones stated that he is comfortable with the frequencies of the meetings and believes the issues of shakedown, testing, large heels, closures, etc., are important for the CAC to consider. Greg Jones further stated that as the closure process continues, the CAC should be involved as issues like retention will need to be addressed. David Ostler stated that the public participation has dropped and would not object to less frequency, but would not want to leave the July meeting off the calendar. Ms. Kim believes that the CAC would like to continue as is and suggested that this issue be revisited in six months. At that time, if the CAC feels more comfortable with less frequency of meetings, then meetings will be adjusted accordingly.

Kari Sagers stated that the Joint Information Center is available to be utilized for the CAC meetings that are held in Tooele. It was determined that all Tooele meetings will be held at the Joint Information Center.

VIII. Citizens Concerns: None to Report

On behalf of the CAC members, Ms. Kim thanked Mr. Harold Oliver for keeping the CAC informed and always being so willing to answer any questions and wished him well in his new endeavors.

On behalf of the Division staff, Mr. Downs also thanked Mr. Oliver for his many years of working with the Division staff. Mr. Downs also thanked the administrative support staff for all their efforts in ensuring the CAC meetings run smoothly.

Ms. Kim noted that other CACs are interested how Utah is moving ahead. Therefore, the CAC will be actively sharing meeting minutes, specifically posting them on the Internet.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 18, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Department of Environmental Quality (Room 101), located at 168 North 1950 West, Bldg. #2 (Room 101), Salt Lake City, Utah.

The March meeting was tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Joint Information Center in Tooele, Utah.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.